

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (Original) An apparatus, comprising:
 - a product having control circuits; and
 - a verification and activation module coupled to the control circuits of the product, wherein the verification and activation module activates the control circuits of the product.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the verification and activation module is removably coupled to the product.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the control circuits of the product are deactivated when the verification and activation module is not coupled to the product.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the verification and activation module is programmed with information.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the programmed information comprises purchase date and price of the product.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the programmed information comprises warranty information for the product.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the programmed information comprises data about a consumer who purchased the product.
8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the programmed information comprises data about a manufacturer of the product.
9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the programmed information comprises data about the product.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the verification and activation module comprises a non-volatile programmable memory.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the non-volatile memory is selected from the group consisting of electrically erasable and programmable read only memory (EEPROM), Flash memory and battery backed-up random access memory (RAM).

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the product comprises verification and activation circuits.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the verification and activation module comprises a non-volatile programmable memory, and verification and activation circuits.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a security feature that deactivates the product when outside of a geographical location.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a security feature that deactivates the product when a security signal is not present.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein warranty history of the product is stored in the non-volatile memory.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein repair history of the product is stored in the non-volatile memory.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein maintenance history of the product is stored in the non-volatile memory.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a communications interface coupled to the verification and activation module.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the communications interface is selected from the group consisting of WIFI and Bluetooth.

21-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Original) A system for replacing an original product with a replacement product, said system comprising:

an original product;

a verification and activation module coupled to the original product; and

a replacement product, wherein when the verification and activation module is removed from the original product and coupled to the replacement product, the replacement product is enabled for operation and the original product is disabled from operation.

39. (Original) The system of claim 38, wherein once the replacement product has been enabled for operation by the verification and activation module, the original product cannot be enabled again by the verification and activation module.

40. (Original) A system for replacing an original product with a replacement product, said system comprising:

an original product having a first verification and activation module; and

a replacement product having a second verification and activation module, wherein when the first verification and activation module is in communication with the second verification and activation module, the replacement product is enabled for operation and the original product is disabled from operation.

41. (Original) The system of 40, wherein the communication is wireless.

42. (Original) The system of 40, wherein the communication is by wire.

43-47. (Cancelled)

48. (Original) A method for replacing an original product with a replacement product, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an original product having a verification and activation module;

providing a replacement product; and

removing the verification and activation module from the original product; and

installing the verification and activation module in the replacement product, wherein the replacement product is enabled for operation and the original product is disabled from operation.

49. (Original) A method for replacing an original product with a replacement product, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an original product having a first verification and activation module;

providing a replacement product having a second verification and activation module; and

communicating between the first and second verification and activation modules such that the replacement product is enabled for operation and the original product is disabled from operation.

50. (Original) A method for product security, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a product having a verification and activation module; and

communicating with the verification and activation module such that the product is enabled for operation when a correct security code is communicated to the verification and activation module.

51-52. (Cancelled)